

## **1.0 TYPE OF HEATING**

With approval, use continuous or V-type heating methods to curve girders. For the continuous method, simultaneously heat a strip along the edge of the top and bottom flanges that is of sufficient width and temperature to obtain the required curvature. For V-type heating, heat the top and bottom flanges simultaneously in truncated triangular or wedge-shaped areas. Position the areas with their base along the flange edge and spaced at regular intervals along each flange. Set the spacing and temperature so as to approximate the required curvature by a series of short chords. Heat along the top and bottom flanges at approximately the same rate.

For V-type heating, terminate the apex of the truncated triangular area applied to the inside flange surface just before the juncture of the web and flange. To avoid web distortion, make certain that heat is not applied directly to the web when heating the inside flange surfaces (the surfaces that intersect the web). Extend the apex of the truncated triangular heating pattern applied to the outside flange surface to the juncture of the flange and web. Use an included angle of approximately 15 to 30 degrees in the truncated triangular pattern, but do not allow the base of the triangle to exceed 10 inches (254 mm). Vary the patterns prescribed above only with the Engineer's approval.

For both types of heating, heat the flange edges that will be on the inside of the horizontal curve after cooling. Concurrently heat both inside and outside flange surfaces for flange thickness 1¼ inches (32 mm) and greater. Adhere to the temperature requirements presented below.

## **2.0 TEMPERATURE**

Conduct the heat-curving operation so that the temperature of the steel never exceeds 1150°F (620°C) as measured by temperature indicating crayons or other suitable means. Do not artificially cool the girder until it naturally cools to 600°F (315°C); Use dry compressed air to artificially cool the girder.

## **3.0 POSITION FOR HEATING**

Heat-curving the girder with the web in either a vertical or horizontal position is permitted. When curved in the vertical position, brace or support the girder so that the tendency of the girder to deflect laterally during the heat-curving process does not cause the girder to overturn.

When curved in the horizontal position, support the girder near its ends and at intermediate points, if required, to obtain a uniform curvature. Do not allow the bending stress in the flanges to exceed 27,000 psi (186.2 MPa). To prevent a sudden sag due to plastic flange buckling when the girder is positioned horizontally for heating, place intermediate safety

catch blocks at the midlength of the girder within 2 inches (50 mm) of the flanges at all times during the heating process.

#### **4.0 SEQUENCE OF OPERATIONS**

Conduct the heat-curving operation either before or after completing all the required welding of transverse intermediate stiffeners to the web. However, unless provisions are made for shrinkage, position and attach connection plates and bearing stiffeners after heat-curving. In any event, weld the stiffeners, connection plates, and bearing stiffeners to the girder flanges after the member is curved. If longitudinal stiffeners are required, heat-curve or oxygen-cut these stiffeners separately prior to welding to the curved girder.

#### **5.0 CAMBER**

Camber the girders before heat-curving. Cut the web to the prescribed camber allowing for shrinkage due to cutting welding, and heat-curving. If approved, a carefully supervised application of heat is permitted to correct moderate deviations from the specified camber.

#### **6.0 MEASUREMENT OF CURVATURE AND CAMBER**

Horizontal curvature and vertical camber is measured for final acceptance after all welding and heating operations are complete and the flanges have cooled to a uniform temperature. Horizontal curvature is checked with the web in the vertical position by measuring offsets from a string line or wire attached to both flanges or by using other suitable means. Camber is checked with the web in the horizontal position. Camber the girder so that it meets the horizontal and vertical curvature ordinates without inducing stress into the girders by mechanical force.

Compensate for loss of camber in the heat-curved girders as residual stresses dissipate during service life of the structure. This anticipated loss of camber is computed in accordance with the AASHTO Standard Specifications for Highway Bridges as shown on the plans.

Clearly define the deviation (d) from curvature which should be reasonably close to what AWS allows: 1/8 inch per 10 foot (3 mm per 3.05 m) length.

#### **7.0 PROCEDURE SPECIFICATION AND SHOP DRAWINGS**

Submit structural steel shop drawings, including a detailed written procedure specification for heat curving the girders, supplemented by calculations and sketches, for review, comments and acceptance. On the shop drawings, indicate the type, location, and spacing of heat sectors, if used, supports, and catch blocking for each field section of girders. Also include suitable blocking diagrams for measuring horizontal curvature similar to those usually prepared for camber and vertical curvature.